

THE SONG OF THE PASSER
BY

beautiful representation of the
relentless Wheel
of Life to whose gyrations we all are
bound so
long as imperfection remains in us.
It is
formed by concentric rings of
turquoise on a
dull gold frame, and again
surmounted by the
sacred bird. This also came from
the head of
a Thibetan idol, and it has the sacred
triangle
represented in an enormous
cabochon ruby at
the top. While of the things of this
world is
the frivolous head-dress of a fair
Manchurian
Princess, with a ground formed not
of blue
enamel, but of real kingfisher's
feathers
fastened down on gold to represent
such,
while mice in jade, coral, and amber,
disport
themselves among flowers of seed
pearls, and
propitiate the God of the Princess's
good luck.
The amber of which the mice were
made had
come from that strange district on
the borders
of China, Thibet, and Burmah,
which is
peopled by the tribe of the Abor
Nagars, who
living naked, but not ashamed, have
been
described by those who have seen
them as the

most absolutely happy and innocent
community
on earth. They wear no clothes, but
they are
adorned by a most strict chastity. At
fourteen
a boy is taken to the Bachelor's Hall,
and not
allowed to select a wife until he has
shown his